

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] As mentioned above, the connecting rod 24 is adapted to interconnect the piston 22 and a crankshaft 28 so as to translate the reciprocal movement of the piston 22 into rotational movement of the crankshaft 28. To this end, the connecting rod 24 includes a first end 62 and a second end 64 with at least one of the ends having a bore 66 extending therethrough. The bore 66 defines an inner circumference. As shown in the Figures, the inner ~~circumference~~ circumference of the bore 66 is substantially circular; however, those having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the inner circumference of the bore 66 may also define a plurality of other shapes. By way of example the inner circumference of the bore 66 may be substantially oval or include a tapered profile. The bore 66 is adapted to be aligned with the piston pin bore 54. The end 62 including the bore 66 further includes a bore housing 68 depending therefrom. The opposing end 64 of the connecting rod 24 is operatively secured to the crankshaft 28 through bolts 70. While the standard shape of the end 62 of the connecting rod 24 is best shown in Figure 2, those having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that reduced weight and improved lubrication to the bore 66 may be achieved through employing a connecting rod 24 having a modified bore housing 68.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] As alternatively shown in Figures 7 and 8 where like numerals, increased in alphanumeric sequence, are used to designate like structure, the bore housing 168a and 168b may

taper inwardly toward the phosphatized coated terminal end 162 of the connecting rod 124. As shown in Figure 7, the bore housing 168a tapers in a substantially stepped manner, while the bore housing 168b shown in Figure 5 tapers in a substantially trapezoidal manner. However, those having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that shapes of the bore housings 168a and 168b shown in Figures 7 and 8 are intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. Accordingly, connecting rods 124 having bore housings of all shapes are intended to be within the scope of the present invention. ~~inwardly.~~